



December 15, 2021
Frederick County Sustainability Commission
Meeting Minutes



The meeting was held via WebEx.

Per current practice, the meeting is also streamed live on Facebook at Frederick County Sustainability Commission and made available via phone (**1-855-925-2801, Code 9813**) for listening.

Present: Chair: John Ferri, Vice-Chair: Faith Klareich, Secretary: Mark Sankey, Bill Steigelmann, Ben Springer, Ron Kaltenbaugh, Jim Reed, Tiffany Fossett, Jennifer Bird

Frederick County Council Liaison: Not Represented

OSER staff: Shannon Moore, Dawn Ashbacher

Guests/Public: None

Opening

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm by John Ferri. He invited the public via the virtual platform. John initiated a moment of silent reflection. He led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

Mark Sankey asked for any discussion on the minutes of the Commission meeting of October 15, 2021. As a quorum was not present at the November 17, 2021 meeting, the minutes were not approved at that time. No comments were offered and the October minutes were approved by the members present at that meeting, others abstaining. Minutes have been recorded for the meeting of November 17 and will be issued as a record of discussions and information presented.

County Executive Jan Gardner's Climate Initiatives – Shannon Moore

Shannon presented an overview of the climate-related initiatives of the County Executive as publicly presented and announced. She used the CE's presentation as a platform. She explained that all of the initiatives were underway before the official announcement was made.

A major action is the creation of a separate functional group under the OSER. The result is an Department of Climate and Energy, and a Department of Stormwater.

The initiatives are spurred in part by data from NOAA for Frederick County indicating a potential increase in annual average temperature of 6.4 to 10 degrees F. Increased damages from storms and flooding also contributed to the need for proactive response.

County policy and programs under Climate and Energy will continue to be coordinated with MWCOG. Initial work is focused on transportation first and energy use of buildings second since they present the largest sources of GHG emissions. Proposed programs address four main areas.

- Climate and Energy Action Plan.
- Clean Fleet and Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Program.
- Building Energy and Resiliency Program.
- Clean Energy Procurement Program.

The Department of Stormwater will seek to expand areas of related restoration in cooperation with the Maryland Department of the Environment. Other programs will continue as before.

These changes lead to increased staffing. Under OSER, Climate and Energy will require 5.5 positions. Stormwater will add 3 positions.

Comments and questions from Commissioners followed.

- Faith offered to assist in dashboard development to monitor progress.
- Bill noted progress with state requirements for new public school buildings. Ben added the availability of state and federal funding.
- Jim suggested initiatives for heat pump efficiency improvements. Dawn reminded us of Potomac Edison rebate programs. She also commented that commercial and banking support of energy efficiency efforts is generally weak.
- Bill and Faith both mentioned potential for SCORE involvement to encourage action.

A link to the presentation follows.

<https://www.frederickcountymd.gov/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/12988>

OSER Update – Shannon, Dawn

Recognizing time limitations, Shannon focused on State of MD watershed reporting. And the increase of restoration work requirements for the County.

Dawn reported that the Green Homes Challenge and Sustainability Awards are scheduled for the fall. At the time of this meeting, County facilities are scheduled to open in January. The Sustainability Commission will meet virtually in January.

2021-2022 FCSC Management Plan – Discussion – All

John is looking for feedback on the form as he hopes to submit the plan to the CE in January to show our interest and capability to support climate and energy initiatives as presented today.

John also called for an open discussion related to flow of communication among the Commissioners.

Sugarloaf Treasured Landscape Management Plan – Discussion - All

- John reviewed the meeting with Tim Goodfellow as positive, receptive, and productive. Mark attended in person and Betty virtually.
- In reviewing the Commission's review document of the Plan, he read the comment added on the restoration of the eastern boundary of the Plan area to I-270. The wording was acceptable to the Commissioners.
- Jim asked about the current zoning of the approximately 500 acre area which had been restored. John and Mark noted the detailed zoning was unknown to us.
- John reviewed the 4 main initiatives of the Plan which strengthen protection of the Stronghold property.
- A motion was made and seconded to issue the Plan to Tim and the Planning Commission. The motion was approved unanimously with one abstention.

A link to the final Commission Review document follows.

<https://www.frederickcountymd.gov/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/12987>

Subcommittee Updates –All

- Sugarloaf Treasured Landscape Management Plan – Mark
Mark advised that Tim Goodfellow offered to meet with the Commission when the final report is issued after work is completed by the Planning Department and Planning Commission. Mark encouraged the members to add it to an agenda when done.
- South Frederick Corridor – Faith
The report remains in progress.
- Green Resources Energy Action Team (GREAT) – Bill
Actions remain in hiatus until after the first of the year.
- Sustainability Awards – Dawn
The award program is planned for the Fall and we should begin the process now. She mentioned Suzanne Clibur's contributions to the program.

Commissioner Interest/Updates - All

- Jim moved to document the Commission's support of the CE's Climate and Energy Initiatives. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved. John will draft a letter to be sent.
- Ron noted the significant acceleration of promotion of EV's and related issues this past year.
- Bill recommended a David Attenborough film, "A Life on Our Planet." You can see it on You Tube.

Public Comment

John invited public comments and one was received. Jim Gallion, temporarily in Tucson is familiar with OSER and complimented the Commission's efforts. He wrote, "Keep up the good work."

The meeting was adjourned at 4:42 pm.